Message Text

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PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: EFIN, BR

SUBJECT: GOB COMMENTS ON COMPTROLLER OF CURRENCY DRAFT RULING

REF: BRASILIA 0320

- 1. ON 9 MARCH THE GOB FORWARDED COMMENTS TO FINATT ON THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY'S DRAFT RULING ON FOREIGN LENDING BY U.S. BANKS, UNDER COVER OF A LETTER FROM MINISTER SIMONSEN TO SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL.
- 2. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE COMMENTS ARE: A) THE LIMIT ON LOANS TO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE WITH REAL LOSSES AND THUS SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN 10 PERCENT; B) DETERMINATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BORROWING ENTITIES SHOULD USE THE CONCEPT OF TOTAL GROSS REVENUES FROM ALL SOURCES AND THE LIMIT ON SUCH SUPPORT SHOULD BE RAISED FROM 50 PERCENT TO 80-90 PERCENT IF THE LENDING LIMIT OF 10 PERCENT TO A SINGLE BORROWER IS NOT MODIFIED; C) THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PURPOSE TEST SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE TEMPORARY UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FOR PURPOSES NOT SPECIFICALLY CITED IN THE LOAN TRANSACTION SINCE PROPER BANKING PRACTICE REQUIRES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FULL DRAWDOWN OF A LOAN EVEN IF THE PROJECT CANNOT IMMEDIATELY ABSORB ALL THE RESOURCES INVOLVED.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TO SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: QUOTE BRASILIA, D.F., MARCH 3, 1978, DEAR MICHAEL: THIS IS JUST A BRIEF NOTE IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED RULING BY THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

APPLICABLE TO THE COMBINING OF LOANS MADE BY NATIONAL BANKS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, THEIR AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES UNDER THE LENDING LIMIT PROVISION OF 12 USC 84.

ON THE OCCASION OF FRED BERGSTEN'S VISIT WITH US LAST DECEMBER, HE TOLD ME OF YOUR INEREST IN HEARING ANY COMMENTS WHICH WE MIGHT HAVE WITH RESPECT TO THIS DRAFT RULING REGARDING FOREIGN LENDING BY U.S. BANKS.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ATTACH THE OBSERVATIONS WHICH WE HAVE DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS, MARIO HENRIQUE SIMONSEN, MINISTER OF FINANCE OF BRAZIL. END QUOTE.

4. ORIGINAL LETTER AND GOB COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS BEING POUCHED. $\label{eq:comments} \mbox{JOHNSON}$

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